

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2008**

#25-08

19

Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Patricia Pruitt and Allen Ross; Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio

Reorganization of Board of Selectmen

- Appoint a new Chairperson of the Select Board
- John Reynolds suggested postponing re-organization of the Select Board until Pat Allen returns from vacation. Wasn't sure if this could be postponed and wasn't sure whether you can legally? A few years back there had been an attempt to try and make it so that the Chairman of the Board would be Chair for the second year of everybody's term. The original intent was to make sure there was no sense of favoritism or something on the end of the year when someone was being re-elected.

Lengthy discussion was held regarding which year of your term is better to be the Chair of the Selectboard and the work and knowledge that is involved with this position.

- John Reynolds: Also, in terms of a learning curve, in my opinion, is a nice argument as to why we need a five person Board rather than a three person Board. At the Elections yesterday, I spoke with a person who was concerned that in this Town we haven't learned to distinguish between selectmen and selectwomen, so we have a Select Board or a Selectman's Board, and we should come to that meeting with that concept perhaps. This person was uncomfortable with the way it was written on the Ballot. This is an interesting thought, which maybe we should consider.

Approve minutes of April 22, 2008

Pruitt made a motion to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, April 22, 2008 meeting. Seconded by Ross. Pruitt suggested that when a certain amount of information about a topic has been given, and then it says "discussion followed." Need to have more information regarding if a decision was made or recommendation was made. If a particular decision or recommendation was made, it should be included. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.

Emily Monosson, Member of the Montague Grange Energy Committee

Monosson reads letter to the Board of Selectmen thanking them for supporting the Montague Grange's Clean Energy Campaign at the December 31, 2007 Selectboard meeting and invited them to speak at the official kick-off event for this campaign, the Earth, Wind & Sun Fair to be held on June 14, 2008 at the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Abbondanzio: Emily, I didn't know if you are aware that we received a letter from the State saying that we were going to receive \$700 and something under that program. It is the first grant of monies coming back to the community for use.

Ross: We will circulate it to all the people. I think that I have gotten some phone calls and had some communication about this. Exactly how the contributions from citizens work and generate the funds that the Town could benefit from. I think that is part of this.

Brochures will be available at the festival

Robin Paris, Shea President

- Tines and Tunes Event, at Peskeompskut Park on Saturday, July 12, 2008
- Originally requested closing off 6th Street, next to the Post Office on Saturday, July 12, 2008. Post Office has a tractor trailer that comes in twice on Saturday for delivery and pick up and that entrance into the side of the building cannot be blocked.
- Therefore we need to change our request. Would like to block off a portion of 6th Street that goes from the easterly edge of the driveway into the back of the Post Office to the Avenue. Then on 7th Street, there is an entrance between the shopping plaza as well as when it comes out onto the Avenue. We would like to block off from the easterly edge of that entrance to the Avenue. There are two ways out of that parking of that would not be disrupted. It will give us two areas on 6th and 7th for the food vendors, which we would like to keep off

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2008**

#25-08

19

of the grass. We would also like to block off on the side of the post office, which is 6th Street, from J Street up to the entrance into the post office back lot. The porta potties would be on the side towards the park. There are some railings at the edge of the park. The truck comes off of Avenue A and goes in – backs in past the mailboxes on the side. They would then go up to the point where the street is blocked off and then they would turn behind the post office. On 7th Street, there is an entrance to the Aubuchon's parking plaza and from the easterly side of the entrance, so that the entrance is not blocked off to the Avenue. Leave the entrance on 7th Street open. Just from the front of it that is closest to the Avenue. People coming up from the bridge, would have to go through the parking lot.

- This hasn't gone through the police yet, so we are talking about a major artery and unless traffic gets re-routed, down next to the bridge by the paper mills, there is going to be a lot of confused people, and I am not sure that it is reasonable to allow traffic through the parking plaza.. One of the rigs is 42 ft long. The tent that we have is also extremely large. Right there that would be about 100 ft. So we have to measure and see how it pans out.
- Ross feels they need to have measurements of what will be placed in Peskeompskut Park and input from the Police Department and DPW before the board can vote on closing off streets, since this will most likely set a precedent .

Banner across Avenue A

Spoke with Tom Bergeron regarding the banner. It had to have grommets and wind holes. Suppose he signs off on this and then everything is fine.

Liquor License

Robin Paris spoke with the Chief and ironed out all those details. Pruitt: So you can get everything together and come back with your Master Plan.

Town Administrator's Report

Request waiver of building permit fee for Brick House

Two tents were put up for the Great Falls Art Fest on May 17-18, 2008. Brick House is requesting waiver of the \$40.00 fee. This is a non-profit organization and we usually consider fee waivers.

Pruitt made a motion to waive the permit fees of \$20 per tent for a total of \$40 for two tents. The permit number is 08-103 for the Brick House for their Art Festival. This is an annual service the Town provides for the Brick House. Seconded by Ross. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye

Request for Letter of support from Franklin Conservation District

Abbondanzio: The Franklin Conservation District is co-sponsoring a project for the Sawmill River. There is a problem with erosion along the river banks and sedimentation causing the bridge to almost wash out in Montague Center. This project been in existence for quite a while with studies done back in the 1980s and another in the early 2000s that looked at ways to address this erosion and sedimentation problem. This is the next step. We are basically signing on to the effort to continue to study ways to cost out controls in the erosion and sedimentation problem. We are specifically looking at an eco-system approach or comprehensive approach and they are looking at kind of an initiative system called the Vermont Stream Geomorphic Assessment System and they will be looking at this new way of controlling the erosion on the Sawmill River. They are looking for our endorsement of this state of it. We are not locked into the cost of actually implementing the engineering works once they are designed.

Pruitt: There is no cost projection on this, is there?

Abbondanzio: No, not at this point. I spoke with Dan about it and he said the actual cost of implementing the physical improvements or changes in the river that would be used or installed to bring about these erosions would be quite expensive. The organization that is proposing this, knows that the Town is not in any position at this point to sign onto those kind of expenses for the actual improvements. Once that stage comes out, then we will have to be back at the table again talking about what our involvement is going to be in naturally implementing the improvements.

Pruitt: Some level of involvement is assumed?

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2008**

#25-08

19

Abbondanzio: Our involvement is to take it to the next level after studying the implementation. Certainly it is a demonstration project for implementation of this new technology. It is a different way of looking at erosion and sedimentation control and has been used in other states. This is something that has been studied before in the woodshed and now they want to take it to the next level in designing the improvements that actually could be installed. The actual cost of doing this could be quite expensive so we are not locking ourselves into that at this point.

Ross: I saw a lot of their data and they do incredible detailed measurements of widths of things, depths of things, cubic feet per second, lot of photographs, lots of graphs, all kinds of weather conditions, all kinds of info and I think the basic idea is that in a valley and I am referring mostly to the sawmill section from a little bit of Route 63 down to right above the Bookmill. I think the basic idea is to try and find where the original path of the river was because apparently with the twists and turns and the rises and falls seasonally, there was an attempt at one point to channel a river in a straight line parallel to the road that goes from Montague Center toward Amherst. That is where most of the most dramatic erosion is with fallen trees. The idea would be to try by calculations and pretty sophisticated studies find where the original course of the river went and when there is high flow areas where the water level rises, it perimates a forced in section, and is less likely to cause high speed, intense flows that cause more erosion, more earth movement, more damage to the roads that it paralyzes, more deposition of sediment under the bridges that it goes under and less potentially contamination of adjacent agricultural land. That is the idea, but it sounded like to go from the planning stage which is pretty intimate to a true construction phase where you actually re-channel the river is a big deal. In the phone conversations they said it wasn't likely to cost the Town much, but that was a pretty unofficial phone conversation. I think we aren't signing any warrants here, so I think we can ask for more information. I would be quite interested, but skeptical, about when and where to sign on.

Pruitt: On the other hand we have the persisting problem of the river overflowing its' banks and people's houses are threatened.

Pruitt made a motion to approve a study seeking to implement recommendations made in the Sawmill River planning project #604B, in form of a Demonstration/Implementation Project under Section 319 Non-point Source Pollution Grant Program. Seconded by Ross. Ross stated with the clear understanding that at this point the Town be not responsible for any costs of the study. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.

Reynolds: Is this cost coming out of or is it independent?

Abbondanzio: No, this is independent. This is coming out of the Franklin Conservation District. It used to be a Conservation District of the State, and they are associated with what used to be the Soil Conservation Service, now it is either US Resource and Recovery, NRCS, Resources Conservation Services. The Conservation Districts are actually county. They are affiliated on a county level.

Sign Agricultural Preservation Restriction Co-Holders Agreement – Mieczkowski APR

This is an APR project on South Ferry Rd. involving about 114 acres. The Town is involved in this because the Conservation Commission used \$25,000 from its' Conservation Fund towards the purchase of this Agricultural Preservation Restriction, out of the total project acquisition cost of \$685,000. We are basically 3.5 per cent of the cost of that project.

Pruitt made a motion to approve our participation in the Agricultural Restrictions Program as described in the Co-Holders Agreement for the purposes of purchasing the Mieczkowski farmland. Seconded by Ross. Funding was previously approved.

Ross: I think a lot of people have interest in preserving a lot of open space land and that would be nice. The criteria for getting serious Agricultural Preservation Restriction money either from supportive land trust or the state, there just is not enough money to preserve it. A lot of open space, so they concentrate on pieces that have exceptional value, either in terms of the quality of the agriculture or some other features to it that would it also irreplaceable and be really detrimental to the area to have it developed in different ways. This piece of property clearly is that type of thing. It has a very large amount of frontage along the Connecticut River, on the west side; the Sawmill River on

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2008**

#25-08

19

the eastern side and the farmland involved here is about as good as you can get in the Pioneer Valley. It is all actively farmed. It is a pretty remarkable piece. It is also there is some fish and wildlife land that is further down a dirt road through this property that actually extends to a nice little point where the Sawmill River comes out. It is a pretty striking project and I think Mr. Mieczkowski did a very decent thing by working this out. A map was available for anyone to look at

Reynolds: What are the Town's obligations, once we set this up? What are we obliged to do, once we do an APR on any form of this conservation?

Ross: Nothing.

Reynolds: If they want to sell, would we have first dibs on buying it back or is that State?

Abbondanzio: That is Chapter 61. That is different. That is basically where somebody is opting to take the agricultural land off the market and basically not have to pay the tax for it, while it was in that state. It always has the possibility of going back onto the market again and the owners would have to settle with the community in terms of tax considerations and the Town has the option of purchasing those under Chapter 61. These lands are permanently protected through a permanent deed of this land that will___basically the development rights the difference between what that land is worth on the market and what it is worth as agriculture. The State and Town have jointly purchasing the right to keep that land in agriculture.

Reynolds: Do we have a set of plans in Town of areas that we are watching to keep track of; in other words, do we have a plan in place saying these places are the ones we are after, and that is the funding that you are referring to and hoping to build up and use for these purposes?.

Abbondanzio: Yes we do. The Conservation Fund, unfortunately has been drawn down considerably. I want to say that we are down to, after this \$25,000, we'll be down to \$30,000 or maybe a little more than that. So I think at some point the Town is going to want to consider augmenting that. At one time we had to put in \$10,000 a year, to build it up. In the 1980s in particular. There are a few parcels that we have in mind. There are some owners that are definitely interested in coming into the APR program and a constant discussion is on-going, both between those owners and the Town Planning Staff, also with the State Department of Farming. We definitely have a plan. We definitely have parcels that are considered really really high priority parcels in terms of their value; as to the types of soil and all that.

Reynolds: Is this a kind of information that we can get on our website? That we have acquired this and therefore show people on our website that this is an APR farm that we saved.

Abbondanzio: Actually because we have the geographic information system, we have maps that can be generated that show where all the current APR land is located throughout the Town. So, it basically shows where the effort has been to date in preserving agriculture.

Ross: The main work that was done to work it out with Mr. Mieczkowski and his family to arrange the finances and such was Franklin Land Trust. The Town actually did not really take a major roll in this at all. In the agreement should the family want to sell, Franklin Land Trust has the first option and the changes that APR persists even if it gets sold. I actually have a small piece of land further down the river. In terms of having observations of property because there are very specific restrictions to keep it agricultural with definitions about what can and can't happen there, structures, foundations, all kinds of stuff. The people, like the Franklin Land Trust, they will periodically review the property; walk it, photograph it and document it. They'll keep an on-going diary to make sure that the criteria of the agreement are being met.

Reynolds: In that line of thought, is there any___in Town that is in ___money from the government ___looking this way as a way of recruiting farmers to do something on this land that we might have some interest in.. In other words they have said we haven't had anything on it now, but we might have some interest in it. They

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2008**

#25-08

19

have said _____--and to get money for some of these people to keep on farming or farm it in a particular way. Because we are a Town and have an entity _____

Abbondanzio: There is a Committee that was formed, the farming group. I don't know what the status is on the group. That would be the type of thing that they are looking at. Issues such as the impact of tax structure on farming in general. So that probably is one area where the Town could have some influence.

Reynolds: I think we need to do something in the Town to kind of balance _____the financial entity is there won't be there for long.

(couldn't hear John Reynolds speak)

Ross: A lot of the farmers are very sadly about what is out there and are often making a difficult choice between preservation restrictions if their property qualifies for it vs. what they might get from a developer. Often play one off of against the other.

Franklin County Selectmen's Association Quarterly Meeting June 19th, 2008

No final decision was made regarding the Selectmen's Association Quarterly Meeting since the Annual Town Meeting is continued to 6:30 PM on Thursday, June 19th, 2008, at the Turners Falls High School.

Bike Tune-Up Event, Friday, May 30th, 2008 – Peskeomskut Park, Dan LaRoche/Jon Dobosz

Pruitt made a motion for a Bicycle Tune-Up Event and also the set up of the staging area for the Bike Parade at Peskeomskut Park on Friday, May 30th, 2008 and ending on May 30th, 2008. We don't have the precise times, but this will probably take all day, so we'll say 9 AM to 5 PM. Seconded by Ross. Approved unanimously. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.

Updates

Budget Process

Tomorrow night, the Finance Committee and the Select Board will be meeting to talk about the budget and the override on June 16th, and the Special Town Meeting that will follow on June 17th. Just to determine what is going to be on the Warrant for the 17th, the school will be coming back on the June 17th Town Meeting with their new number for the assessment request, for the Gill/Montague District. Thursday night, we are basically going to finish the Town Meeting I think we have the Tech School assessment and then we have about another dozen or so articles; mainly special articles. So, we probably should get through the whole Warrant, but we won't resolve the budget problem at that point, because we will still have the override ahead of us on June 16th. We will still have the finalization of the Gill/Montague School District number on the 17th, and it is likely that it will end up going to a District meeting. That is where we are at right now.

Gary Earles, Precinct 4 expressed his unhappiness about not being able to get information about the Town election and not being able to make contact with someone from town hall to get more information. He also expressed his dismay over not being able to use another browser than internet explorer.

Ross agreed that the website never really got functioning to the level we would like, and thinks it has to be relooked at in detail.

Gary Earles would like to see more collaboration between the schools and town's websites, so there might be a central place to go to get information. I would be willing to sit on a Committee to come up with some decent ideas, like the ones I expressed here, and maybe some design issues of things that would be nice to have on the website. I am not the person to design or to do the web input.

Ross: We will re-address the subject.

Railroad Salvage

Abbondanzio: To bring everyone up to date as to what happened in the Housing Court. The Building Inspector went down and argued with our Town Counsel. The owner requested a 30-day extension and was given that. Basically

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2008**

#25-08

19

there was a Housing Inspector who did an evaluation of the Railroad Salvage. He used to be a Building Inspector in Holyoke, so he is very sympathetic to the concerns that we have. He supported the need for greater security, a barbed wire fencing and finishing or repairing the existing fencing, make sure all the windows are properly boarded to restrict access. He also felt that it wasn't really the Building Inspector's job going over there on a regular basis to make sure that everything was all right. He wanted the owner to basically pay for someone to go and monitor and report back on that. Also, one of the bigger things was that they required the owner to hire a structural engineer basically to look at ways to either limit the further deterioration or to deal with the impact if the building continues to deteriorate. The Inspector feels that it is just a matter of time before that building falls down. We've gone in with the hope that maybe a receiver would get involved with this process. That would be someone who would come in from outside, and force a sale. Unfortunately the building doesn't have no real residual value so it would be difficult for a receiver to recover any investment that you have into it. So that probably will not happen, but I think that even getting a structural engineer apparently will not be that easy, according to counsel for the owner. It is difficult to find a structural engineer to do that work for him. In any case, that is going to have to happen and that individual will come up with a plan for stabilization after collapse or ways to mitigate. _____ on the street side of the building that the building could end up having the top couple of stories blocked off so it would be a safer; that would be another way of making it less dangerous to the public. That is pretty much what happened and there was a 30-day delay. We didn't actually appear before a judge.

Ross: Again, suppose nothing significant happens in 30-days, then he goes back to Court and he could be found in contempt?

Abbondanzio: Yes, that is my understanding.

Ross: Then what can happen?

Abbondanzio: It is possible that he could be jailed if he is found in contempt. Regarding the 30-day delay, what if the owner doesn't comply, and what if he doesn't do anything?

Jensen: Our original request was for default judgment and assign a receiver to take charge of the building and spend his money to accomplish those goals. I think we have a pretty good case for that, although the Court did say that appointing a receiver for what is maybe a financially non-liable building or sight, may be difficulty. It is something that they haven't run into, even in Springfield. So we are sort of breaking new ground on that request.

Ross: OK – no receiver. We are there already. Let's say nothing happens within 30 days. He goes back to Court, could he be found in contempt? What else can happen? Suppose he is found in contempt, then what will happen?

Jensen: The Court could put civil fines on him for failing to perform.

Ross: Is he protected by an LLC?

Jensen: He is protected.

Ross: Suppose he doesn't pay the fines.

Jensen: In a state where you can't attach property very easily ___ out of state So, the assets available to us are essentially what you see.

Ross: So even if we use all the fire hazard, public health hazard.

Jensen: The court takes that very seriously.

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2008**

#25-08

19

Ross: Ok, they take it seriously and nothing happens. At some point doesn't it seem likely that if we want to create a safe, fenced, partially demolished building, we are going to have to pay for it? Then try and get the money back from him.

Jensen: We have that option, I think along the way. We need to play out our Court request before we take that step. It is clearly an option that we can spend our own money to remedy it.

Ross: It seems like if he doesn't come up with anything, that is going to be our last option.

Pruitt: That doesn't put us in the position that we were in with the Strathmore of taking management control.

Jensen: In the Strathmore, it was different. We had a tax claim and we were protecting an asset. We have no tax claim on Mr. Kosuda. He hasn't paid the most recent bill.

Pruitt: If we do all this work, we would be adding.

Jensen: If we spend money, we attach that to his obligation to pay the Town. If he doesn't he goes into tax arrears, and then we go down that route.

Ross: The reason I am pushing that is because publicly so many people say why don't you people do something with these buildings falling down. In fact, we are doing stuff. It is going to Court. Land holders and owners have tremendous defenses, especially if they are shielded by an LLC. If the property isn't worth much, all you can do is do what you are doing until we decided to spend money because it is felt to be a major health hazard. That is my understanding.

Jensen: We can always resort, and fairly efficiently, to spending our own money if the owner defaults in our request.

Lynn Reynolds: What would it take to make it safe? What about the situation with the road? That is a real safety issue, for emergency egress

Jensen: The last estimate from a local person or company that does demolition was an estimate and it ran somewhere between \$500-750,000.

John Reynolds: That was taking it away.

Jensen: Yes, that was for removing it. I did talk to the structural engineer who had worked on it before, that now refuses to have anything to do with the building. He was at least kind enough to finish the conversation. He said that it certainly is a plausible idea that if you take the west side of the building down to only two stories where the brick wall is about 21 inches wide, it is certainly plausible that it might be safe enough to open the street, provided that the sight itself remains secure; the fence, the barbed wire, the reinforcement and the monitoring continues. That was somebody speaking from another state that has experience with it and probably hasn't seen the building in nine months. Also, much of the debris in the inside has to be taken out, that is what is knocking the walls out, as it falls it rotates the floor joists; essentially pops the walls out. Brick of that thickness is four stories, is a concern. It is much less than half of the problem. We can make it safe, before we can make it pretty.

John Reynolds: This whole discussions leads into something that I spoke about earlier. We know the school in Montague Center is coming off as a school. We know that it is coming back to us in the fall. Does the Town have any mechanisms looking at the building in Town or buildings in Town that are liable to come back to us? Do we have any plans for how we can rent them, restore them or tear them down – basically we have no plan at this point. I think it comes back to you Frank if I am not mistaken. You are trying to rent them or do something with them. It seems to me like we ought to have a policy, and I think it should come from the SelectBoard of what we want to do with buildings that are under Town ownership and then come back to us. Last time I asked about the Center School, it was going to be boarded up and shut the heat and water off. If we are going to do that to a building like that, it is

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2008**

#25-08

19

going to be a Railroad Salvage. It seems to me that we need a plan in place to deal with this kind of thing, because there are a lot of buildings in Town that could potentially follow suit.

Abbondanzio: Right now, we have three buildings that we own. 46 Dry Hill Rd., which is a dilapidated residential structure, the _____ Shop and the J Street property. I have actually hired Douglas Auctioneers to do an auction next month. I had considered doing the commercial homesteading for J Street until we had the problem with the roof caving in. I just think it is beyond that. I talked to Doug. He said that we could have permission attached that whoever buys it doesn't just sit on it and speculate that they can either take it down and put something else there or actually do something to renovate the building. Rather than go the commercial homesteading route on those two buildings, I've included that in the auction along with some other parcels of land that we have through tax title. Basically it is to get the property back on the tax rolls and generate some income. I know the parcel on Dry Hill Rd is probably going to get us something as it is a desirable location anyway. For these others, I think it is beyond the hope of our getting involved in promoting historic preservation, whatever. We did try with J street and with the Rod Shop to go through homesteading and were very unsuccessful. I think we went through two rounds with that.

Jensen: One thing that has changed is the 21E. The study of sight pollution, and that came up pretty good. That was one of the biggest worries of some of the people looking at it. Circumstances may be different, I don't know.

Abbondanzio: There is one building down there, apparently, is in fair shape, but the remainder of the complex is not in great shape at all.. Hopefully, we will have some takers at the auction. When we put the Madison Avenue up for auction two years ago, we took in about \$60,000, for that property and it was in pretty bad shape. We are hoping. Doug has a very good network. He got a lot of people for that auction, about 20-25. Montague Center School is another whole issue. I think with that property that is good condition and in a good location and we might want to consider having a Committee to look at options for that building.

John Reynolds: I think it is one of two, if I am correct with the stories that I heard around town about buildings that are liable to come back to us.

Abbondanzio: The other one that was likely or possible was the Hillcrest School. The plan right now is to develop that as a pre-school, kindergarten, and maybe some administration offices. At this point, there is no active movement to turn that building back to the Town. I think Montague Center definitely needs to have a plan to place to put it on the market, sell it outright or actually decide what we are going to have happen at that building and put out an RFP where we limit the amount we might take it in initially, but then we would have more control.

Lynn Reynolds: Are you saying we might rent it?

Abbondanzio: I don't think so, but it is always a possibility. My preference is to not get into the rental market for one more building. We do have the _____ is a part-time job for somebody to oversee all the maintenance and operations; everything that goes along with renting a building. Being a landlord, we have to deal with that building and if there is some way to turn that building around and sell it, that would be my preference. I am open to suggestions. We haven't talked about it

John Reynolds: We need to talk about it The short term is that we know we are going to talk into a heating system, and with heating costs so high, we don't want to heat the building but if we don't, we lose value in that building. We need to have some strategy.

Abbondanzio: I would consider that an asset. It is anybody's guess how it is going to end up. I wouldn't want to see it deteriorate.

Ross: I think the idea of keeping much closer track either through a Committee or just being up here. One thought is that on a number of issues in Town, I think we should have a minimum of a quarterly up-dates on the properties. If something is real active like Strathmore, etc, that might be monthly. Rather than create a new individual Committee, conceivably this can be merged into the Capital Improvement Committee, where you have an on-going staff who are experienced.

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2008**

#25-08

19

Pruitt: I would like to put a reminder that we may have a group of Precinct 1 people who are trying to put together a proposal for the Montague Center School. That may come forward in the next few months.

Reynolds: That is a way of looking at buildings, and it might be simply maybe not bringing in more income, but simply maintaining it for a period of time, until they decide what they want.

Landfill

Abbondanzio: I have one more person to recommend for inclusion on the Committee. Doug Stevens from the Planning Board has expressed an interest. He is involved through his Commission down in Northampton with the Northampton Landfill, so he is very familiar with this thing.

Pruitt: Are you sure it isn't Bruce? Bruce is in Northampton as a planner and is involved with the landfill.

Abbondanzio: I will check on it.

John Reynolds: There is another person who is knowledgeable about re-cycling. He is also interested in Montague Center and is also interested in the Airport. His name eludes me at the moment, but he would like to be on the Airport Commission.

Ross: There is a hold on that. One other issue, I think we should start looking and seeing and get the landfill together. Have them create an agenda and a rough time table so that we can look at that as a potential resource for our Town. Look at it critically with a defiant time table so we can decide whether that will be a resource that we can eventually count on or not. Or to try to do something else with the property, but I think to have it hang out there at a time like this without being looked at critically would be irresponsible. We will get the people who are on it to have a meeting, get a Chair, come up with an agenda and see where it is going to go.

Kick-Off Meeting for Sidewalk

Abbondanzio: We are looking at hopefully getting a final design by July 11th and starting constructing sometime in mid-August on the Grant part of it; mainly Unity Street, 7th Street and Spring Street.

Other

Ross: This is a real challenging time for us. Budget wise it is hard to be super cheerful or even optimistic about it, but we have a few meeting coming up and we'll know more clearly where we stand. We will try to do the best we can.

John Reynolds: Is the override issue clear? In other words we don't have a final number at this point.

Pruitt: We have a final number and it is \$150,000.

John Reynolds: That has to be advertised as when I was at the polls, a lot of people were coming in and weren't sure as to how much it was. Just want to make sure that it is well talked up.

Pruitt made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ross. Unanimously approved. Pruitt – Aye, Ross – Aye.